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Reed still succeeds in keeping his personality from the pages. Vividly dramatic, full of realism, in itself romance, accurate and sane, are these sketches that Mr. Reed affords us in his *Insurgent Mexico* — a contribution, be it said, to the human and artistic aspects of this trouble-torn country.

LINDLEY M. KEASBEY

Panama. The canal, the country and the people. By Arthur Bullard (Albert Edwards). Revised edition with additional chapters. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1914. 601 p. \$2.00 net)

Mr. Bullard's compact book is a veritable cyclopedia of information, set forth in narrative style, concerning Panama, the country, the canal, and the people. Especially instructive is the author's historical account: of the early days after the arrival of the Europeans; of the part played on the isthmus in the revolt from Spain; of the subsequent era of varied misrule, when there was no political principle at stake save local self-government; of the use made by the commercial world of old caravan routes; of the building of the railway and the unsuccessful attempt to construct a waterway from sea to sea; of the recent revolt from Colombia, the independence of the republic, and the actual construction of the Panama canal.

In depicting the Panama people, Mr. Bullard is entirely frank, if not altogether fair. From this account they seem to be a slipshod, lazy folk, cherishing a deep-seated hatred for foreigners, and antagonistic to all attempts to improve their country through outside aid. "The situation," says Mr. Bullard, "furnishes an interesting study of how far political passion can blind people to their economic interests." In the end, however, Mr. Bullard admits his own inability, and that of every other American, really to understand the Panama people; though there may be some virtues among them still undiscovered.

On the other hand Mr. Bullard gives his readers a real impression of the wonderful natural resources of this isthmus country. There are great difficulties, however, in the way of their development. Among these our author points out: the uncertainty of land titles; the absence of roads and bridges, rendering it impossible to install machinery any distance from navigable waters; and, the greatest difficulty of all, the scarcity of suitable labor. Native labor is all but useless, and imported labor is exposed to the ravages of jungle fever, which few, if any, escape. In this connection Mr. Bullard calls our well-deserved attention to the remarkable improvements in sanitation effected under the American government; in his opinion, these improvements, consisting of water-works, ice plants and laundries, plumbing and drainage systems, paving and quarantine re-

quirements, etc., have transformed Panama itself, for instance, from a pesthole into a sanitary, if not actually a salubrious city.

Mr. Bullard's book is delightfully written, in easy, conversational style; it is full of vivid descriptions of the country and interesting incidents in the life of the people. There is an excellent index at the end; altogether the book should add considerably to the voluminous literature on the subject of the American isthmus.

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